



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMEDINST 6550.8 CH-1
BUMED-00NC
1 Dec 98

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6550.8 CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 1

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Medical Department Personnel
Subj: UTILIZATION GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL NURSE WARRANT
OFFICERS (TNWOs)

1. Purpose. To delete outdated information on upward mobility opportunities for TNWOs.

2. Action

- a. Delete paragraph 7c on page 2 of basic instruction.
- b. Retain this change transmittal in front of the basic instruction.

3. Cancellation. This change transmittal is canceled upon completion of the required action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen L. Martin".

KATHLEEN L. MARTIN
Director, Navy Nurse Corps

Available from:
<http://support1.med.navy.mil/bumed/instruct/external/external.htm>



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BUMEDINST 6550.8
BUMED-00NC
11 Jun 93

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6550.8

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Medical Personnel
Subj: UTILIZATION GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL NURSE WARRANT OFFICERS

Ref: (a) ANA Scope of Nursing Practice, 1987
(b) SECNAVINST 6401.2A
(c) BUMEDINST 6320.66A
(d) BUMEDINST 1520.32
(e) BUMEDINST 6010.13

1. Purpose. To establish guidelines for the use of technical nurse warrant officers (TNWOs) within the Navy health care delivery system.

2. Background. The TNWO program was established to offset the shortage of nurses in the hospital setting.

3. Definitions

a. Technical Nurse. Per reference (a), an individual prepared at a technical level, in a 2-year, associate degree nursing program. The graduate technical nurse is prepared to practice in settings in which nursing is controlled through organized nursing services which provide established standards, policies, procedures, and protocols. The scope of practice is limited to a defined body of nursing principles and skills established by the nursing profession for a specified patient population. A technical nurse requires the supervision of professional nurses with a broader scope of nursing knowledge and expertise.

b. Direct Supervision. The nursing supervisor is available to the TNWO by phone and located within the medical treatment facility for on-site consultation regarding the provision of patient care.

4. Licensure and Certification. The TNWO must possess a current registered nurse license to practice nursing per reference (b). Initial licensure and renewal as prescribed by the State board of nursing is required. Current certification in basic life support procedures is also required.



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5. Scope of Practice. TNWOs may be assigned clinical responsibilities commensurate with their education and training and current competence as delineated by their commanding officer, per reference (c). Guidelines in reference (a) may be used to further delineate scope of practice.

6. Utilization. Certain utilization policies have been established regarding TNWOs.

a. Function clinically and in a relief charge nurse role under the direct supervision of a registered professional nurse, as defined in paragraph 3b above. TNWOs may be assigned to a variety of clinical rotations including acute care wards, specialty areas (including operating room), and outpatient nursing units.

b. During the orientation period, must be apprised in writing of their position description, detailing scope of practice, areas of responsibility, and performance expectations.

7. Assignment

a. TNWOs will be assigned to the four major teaching hospitals and selected medium-sized hospitals, after attending the 6-week Officer Indoctrination School at Newport, RI.

b. Do not assign a TNWO to the Medical Personnel Unit Augmentation System, as there are no billets.

~~c. Upward mobility opportunities are available through the TNWO full time duty under instruction program, reference (d).~~

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8. Monitoring and Evaluation Activities. Privileging authorities must maintain an individual professional file (IPF) on all TNWOs. The ongoing evaluation of the quality of care, both process and outcome, rendered by TNWOs must be in compliance with the facility quality assurance instruction and in conformance with guidelines in reference (e). Upon transfer, separation, or retirement, and at intervals not to exceed 2 years, an appraisal of each TNWO staff member's clinical performance and conduct must be completed, documented, and placed in the member's IPF, per reference (c).

9. Continuing Education. TNWOs must comply with the continuing education requirements necessary to maintain State licensure. They may participate in continuing education and inservice training opportunities as offered for nursing and other command personnel.

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10. Action. Commanding officers and officers in charge must ensure compliance with the guidelines of this instruction.



D. F. HAGEN

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